

Remarks:

The preliminary amendment is being filed in an effort to present an application in proper U.S. format and to present claims in proper U.S. claim idiom for examination.

The newly entered claims are fully supported in the original claims and in the claims of the German priority application.

An early action on the merits of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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For Applicants

MPW/tk

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Drawing Amendments:

Fig. 1B: rectangular region 51 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

Fig. 1C: rectangular region 51 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

Fig. 2B: rectangular region 51 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

Fig. 4B: protective region 60 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

Fig. 5B: element 62 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

Fig. 6B: protective element 70 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

Fig. 7B: protective element 70 has been redrawn using cross hatching.

All other drawings have no substantive changes, but have been drawn using a better line quality.

Attachments: 10 Replacement sheets

10 Annotated sheets showing changes



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FIG 1A

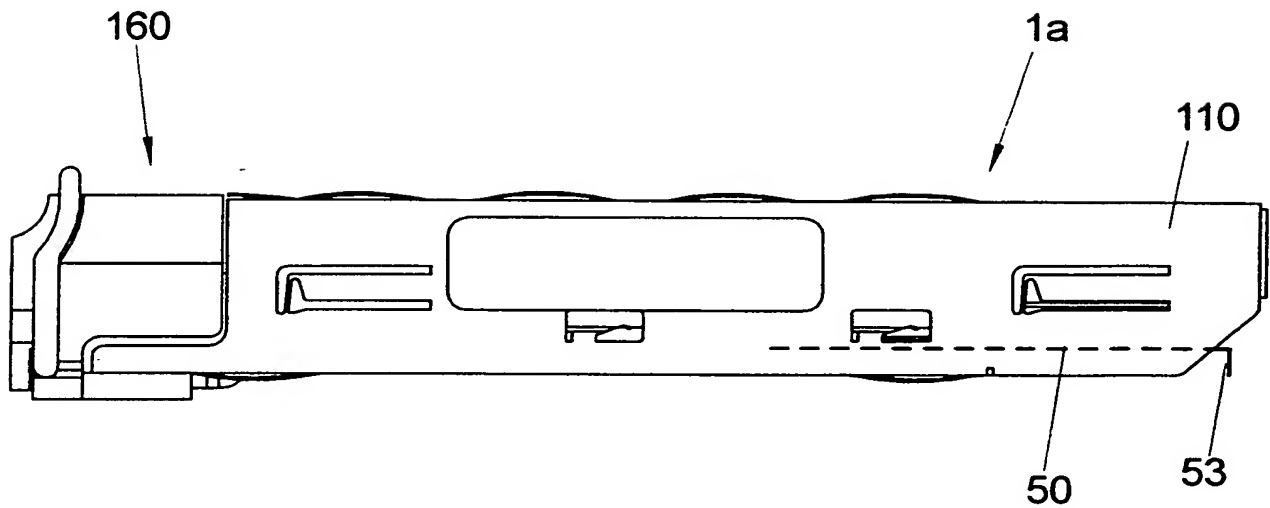
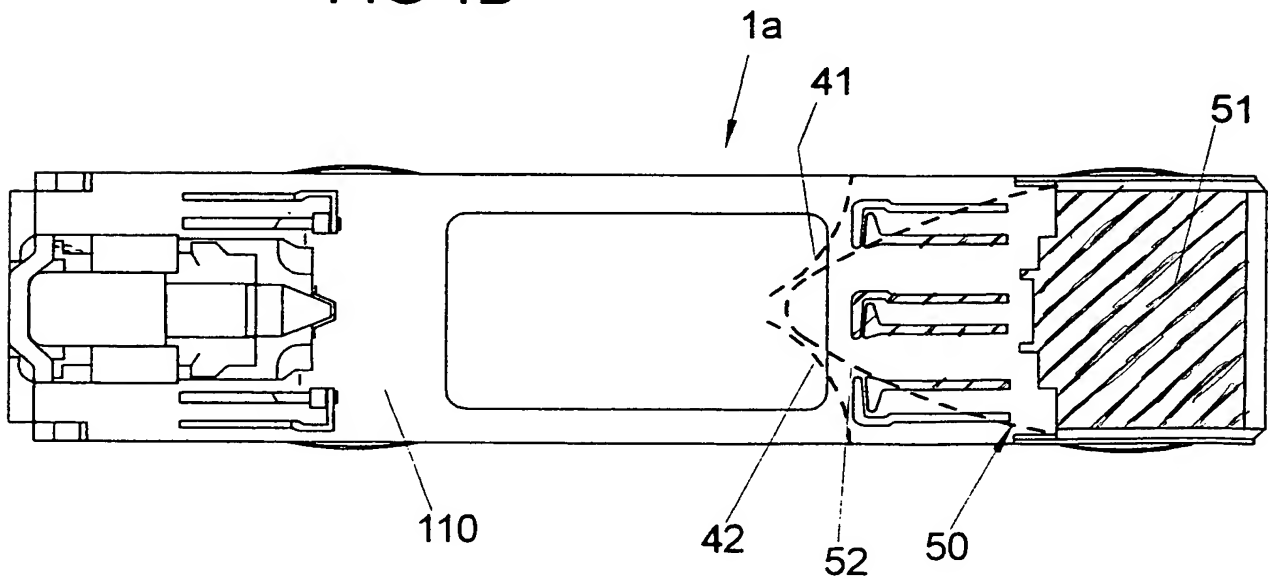
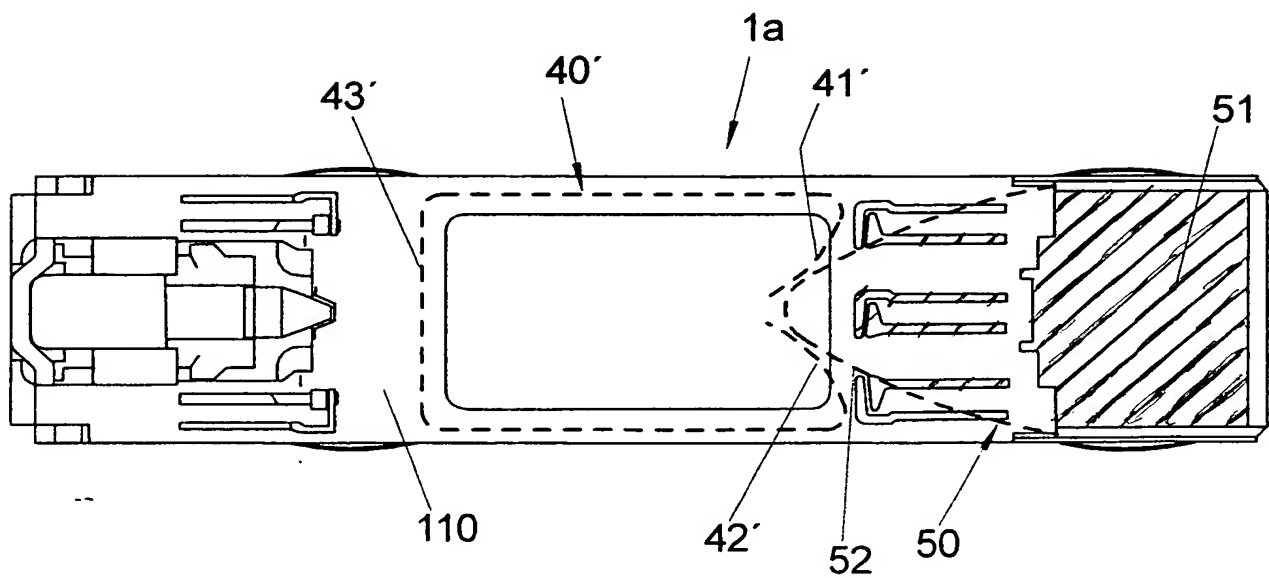


FIG 1B



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FIG 1C



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FIG 4A

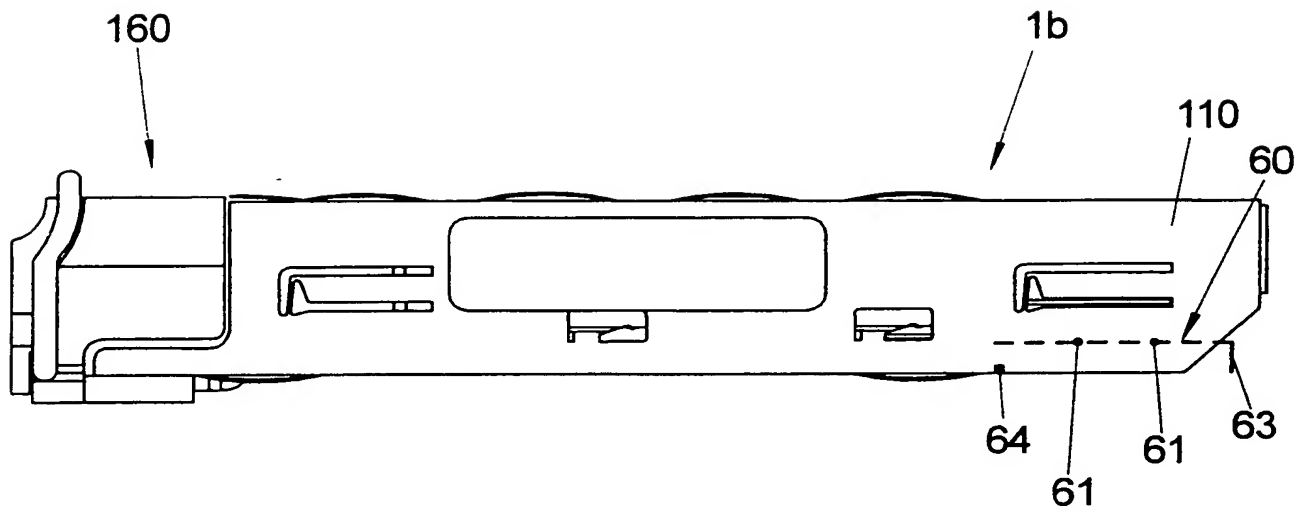
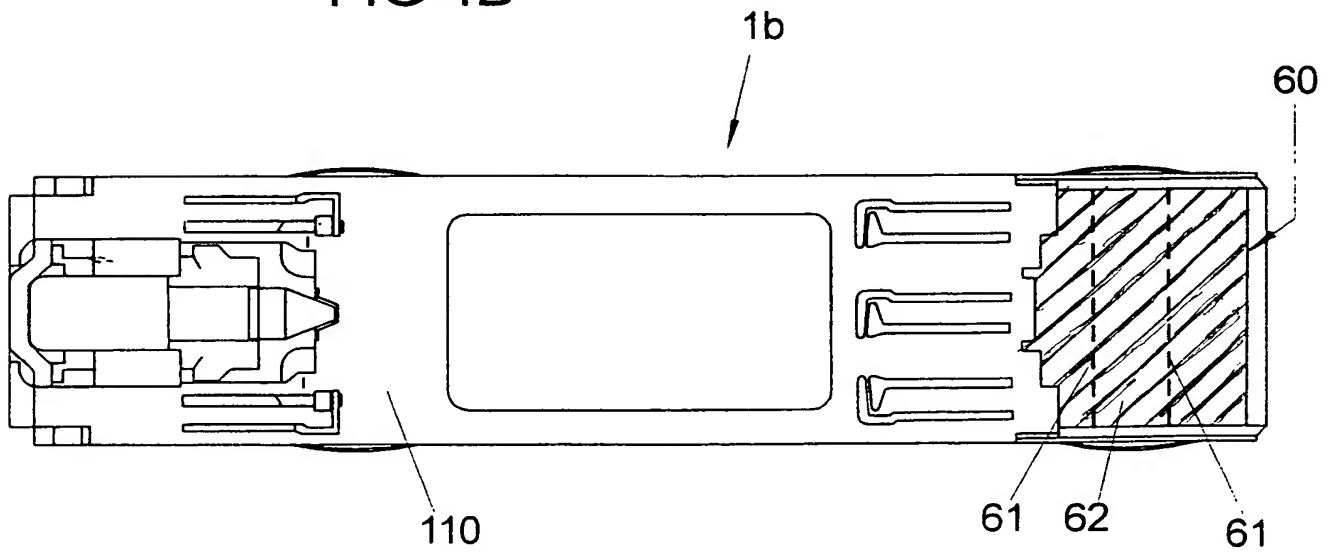


FIG 4B



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FIG 5A

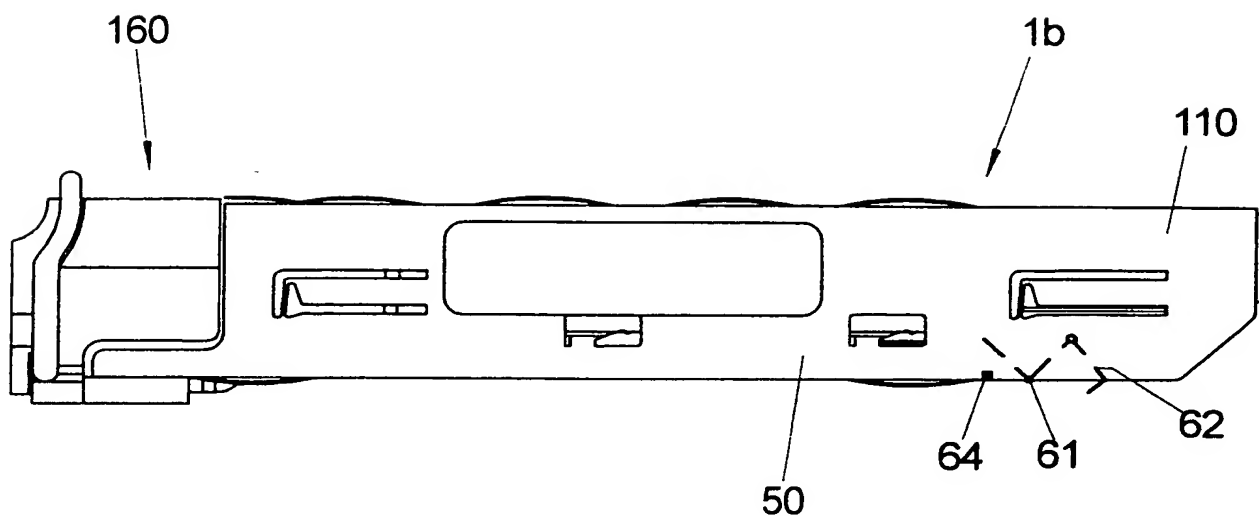
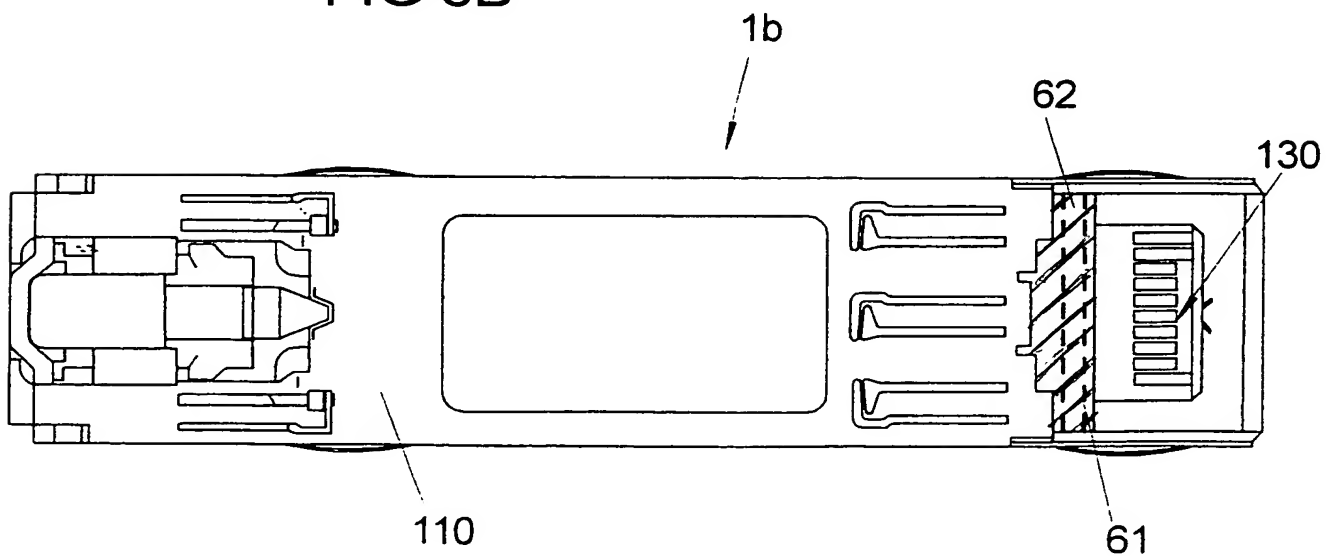


FIG 5B



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FIG 6A

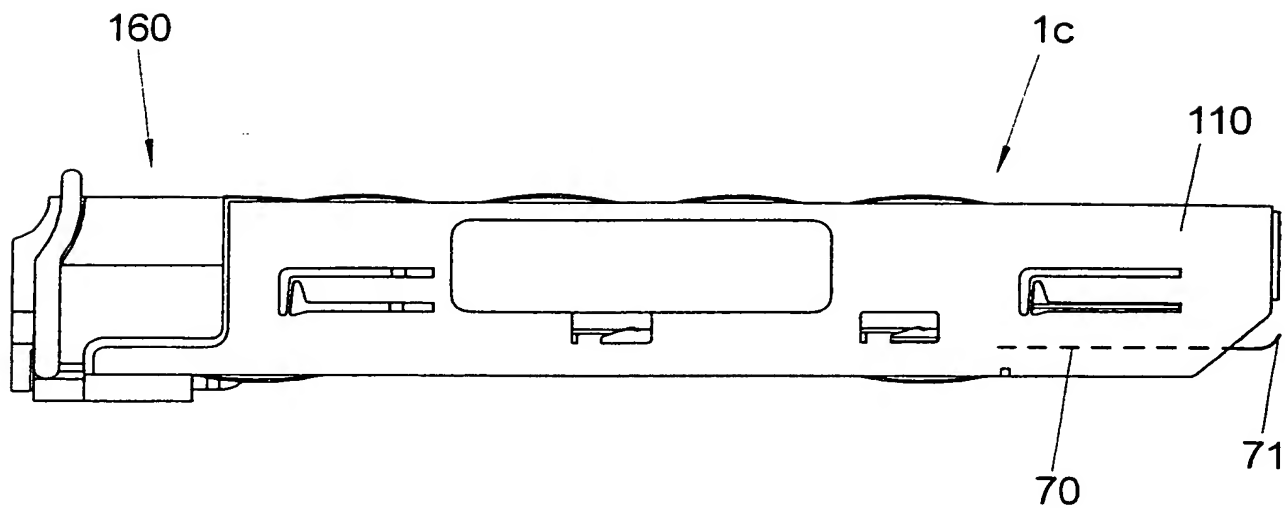
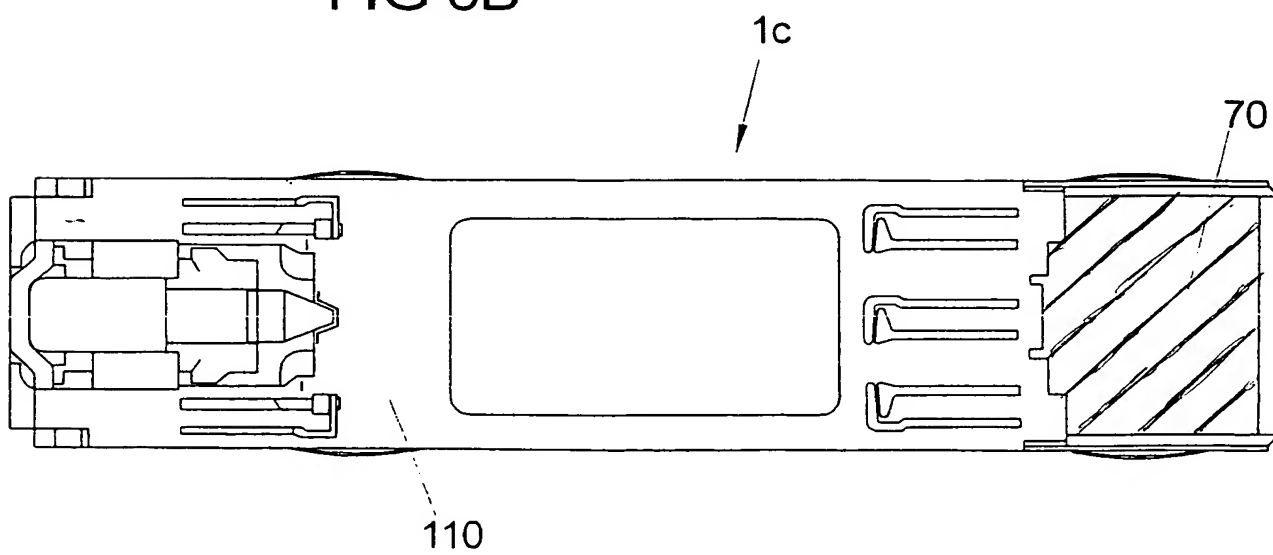


FIG 6B



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FIG 7A

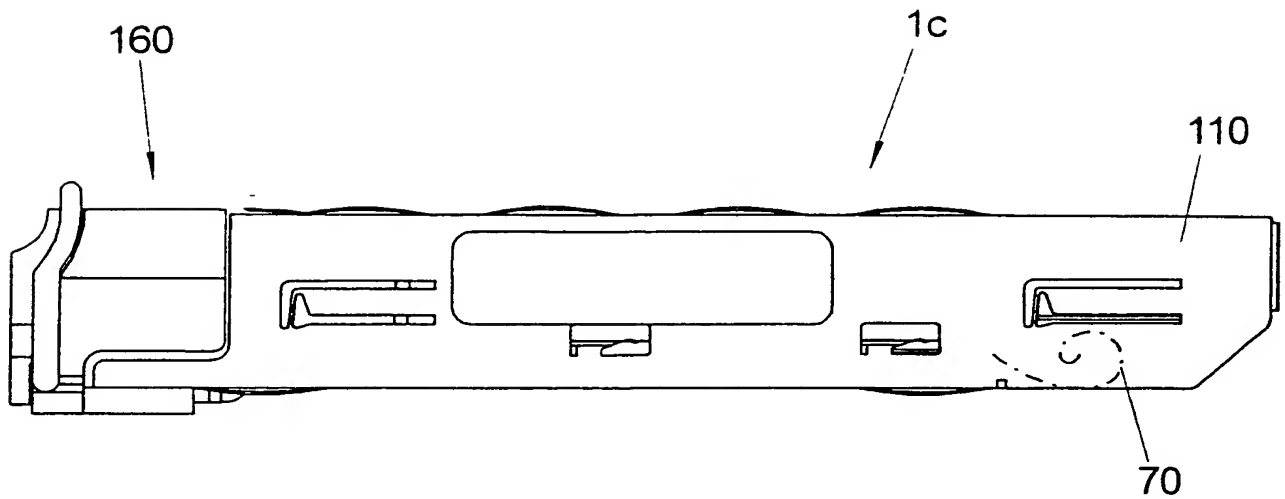


FIG 7B

